

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 ACDA-10 L-02 SPC-01 EB-03

TRSE-00 NEA-05 DODE-00 PM-03 DRC-01 /069 W

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R 031658Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8756

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0912

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: PFOR, XT, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH VIEWS ON US-EC CONSULTATIONS

REF: LUXEMBOURG 210

SUMMARY: IN A DISCUSSION APRIL 3, MFA'S OLE BIERRING (NOW
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS SINCE DIRECTOR
BORCH ENTERED ON DUTY THIS WEEK) EXPRESSED TO DCM AN
UNCERTAINTY TINGED WITH DESPONDENCY REGARDING FUTURE
STEPS ON THE US-EC CONSULTATION QUESTION, FOLLOWING THIS
WEEK'S FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG. HE
FORESAW THAT THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR POINT OF DISCUSSION
BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS WHEN THEY MET IN TWO WEEKS.
END SUMMARY.

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1. BIERRING SAID THAT THE DANES HAD NOT BEEN ADVOCATES

OF A DISCUSSION OF US-EC RELATIONS AT THE MEETING ON APRIL 1 AND 2 BECAUSE THEY DID NOT FEEL THIS WAS THE PROPER PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE ATTENTION GIVEN THE CALLAGHAN STATEMENT. THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO DELAY DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH THE US UNTIL THE MINISTERS MET IN EARLY MAY. OTHERS, HOWEVER, THE ITALIANS AND FRENCH PARTICULARLY, HAD URGED A FORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT AFTER THE APRIL 1 DINNER, AND THE DANES HAD GONE ALONG. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, THIS LED TO THE IMPASSE WHICH, BIERRING MAINTAINED, THE DANES HAD FEARED ALL ALONG. NOW HE WAS NOT CLEAR IN HIS OWN MIND AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, ALTHOUGH HE FELT MORE THAN EVER THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO HASTY STEPS. FRANKLY, HE SAID, HE SAW NO SOLUTION AS LONG AS THE FRENCH MAINTAINED THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE. THE DANES, FOR THEIR PART, WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN INFORMAL ARRANGEMENT FOR US-EC DISCUSSIONS WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. THEY FELT STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT COULD COME ABOUT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF ALL AS TO WHAT WAS INVOLVED. MERELY A FORM OF WORDS WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT, GIVEN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE REITERATED THAT WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS A FUNDAMENTAL MEETING OF MINDS, NOT JUST A PUBLIC STATEMENT. THIS QUESTION OF THE MECHANISM TO IMPROVE US-EC RELATIONS (AND PRESUMABLY THE SUBSTANCE) WOULD BE MAJOR POINTS OF DISCUSSION WHEN THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MET APRIL 18 AND 19, BUT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY AGREEMENT AMONG THE NINE AT THAT TIME.

2. PERSONALLY, BIERRING CONTINUED, HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE "A LOT OF BILATERAL CONTACTS." PERHAPS IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF ALL CONCERNED COULD GET TOGETHER FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT CLEAR HOW SUCH A DISCUSSION COULD BE ARRANGED. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NEED FOR CLARIFICATION ON BOTH SIDES OF SUCH TERMS AS "ORGANIS" CONSULTATIONS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE "DECLARATIONS" WERE PROBABLY NON-STARTERS, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, AND HE WAS PREPARED TO ARGUE THAT ANY NEW INITIATIVE, PARTICULARLY
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ON THE US-EC DECLARATION, SHOULD COME FROM THE US.

3. ANOTHER SENIOR DANISH OFFICIAL, HENNING GOTTLIEB, PM'S ADVISER ON FOREIGN POLICY, TOLD EMBOFF ON SAME DAY THAT HE HAD BEEN ARUGING IN FAVOR OF COMPLETING ATLANTIC DECLARATION IN FACE OF STRONG OPPOSITION, PRESUMABLY WITHIN MFA. HE AGREES WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT CHANGE OF GENERATIONS REQUIRES REAFFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLES, IN ORDER TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHY NORTH ATLANTIC COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT AND DESIRABLE. OTHERS (SEE ABOVE) SAY DECLARATION

IS UNECESSARY, WITH IMPLICATION THAT ATTEMPTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON LANGUAGE ARE THEMSELVES DIVISIVE. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN OPPOSING VOICES DO NOT CLAIM THAT DRAFTING OF DECLARATION WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS WITHIN DENMARK BY RAISING FORMERLY THORNY ISSUE OF NATO MEMBERSHIP. THAT ISSUE, HE SAID, HAS LONG SINCE BEEN SETTLED AND NATO IS FULLY ACCEPTED BY GREAT BULK OF POPULATION.

4. COMMENT: THESE RAMBLING COMMENTS ILLUSTRATE THE DEEP CONCERN FELT BY ATLANTIC-ORIENTED DANISH OFFICIALS ON THE ISSUE OF US-EC RELATIONS. LIKE MOST SENIOR DANES, WHO BY TRADITION ADOPT MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC POSITIONS, BIERRING AND GOTTLIEB FIND IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEDE THAT EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC TIES COULD BE JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE MISTAKEN CONCEPTIONS OF EUROPE'S POSITION AND POTENTIAL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974COPENH00912
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740075-0188
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740471/aaaacnkd.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: LUXEMBOURG 210
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH VIEWS ON US-EC CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, XT, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005